

REMARKS**INTRODUCTION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 5, 17 and 30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 6-9, 12, 18-21, 24 and 31-34 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-29 and 31-36 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

In the Office Action, at pages 2-4, claims 1-4, 12-16, and 24-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being ~~anticipated by~~ obvious over U.S. PGPub 2002/0064354 to Ware et al. (hereafter, Ware) in view of U.S. Patent 5,946,986). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Applicants' attorney notes that, since for anticipation, a single prior art reference is required to disclose each and every limitation of the claimed invention, and since 35 U.S.C. §103(a) recites the conditions for patentability regarding nonobvious subject matter, the Examiner meant to say that claims 1-4, 12-16, and 24-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. PGPub 2002/0064354 to Ware et al. (hereafter, Ware) in view of U.S. Patent 5,946,986. The following response is based on this assumption.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion on page 4 of the office action, claim 1 was amended to include the features of claim 5, and claim 5 was cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, amended claim 1 is submitted to be allowable. Since claims 2-4 and 6-11 depend from amended claim 1, claims 2-4 and 6-11 are submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons that amended claim 1 is submitted to be allowable.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion on page 4 of the office action, claim 12 was amended to include the features of claim 17, and claim 17 was cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, amended claim 12 is submitted to be allowable. Since claims 13-16 and 18-23 depend from amended claim 12, claims 13-16 and 18-23 are submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons that amended claim 12 is submitted to be allowable.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion on page 4 of the office action, claim 24 was amended to include the features of claim 30, and claim 30 was cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, amended claim 24 is submitted to be allowable. Since claims 25-29 and

31-36 depend from amended claim 24, 25-29 and 31-36 are submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons that amended claim 24 is submitted to be allowable.

Hence, the rejection of claims 1-4, 12-16, and 24-29, as well as claims 6-11, 18-23 and 31-36, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. PGPub 2002/0064354 to Ware et al. (hereafter, Ware) in view of U.S. Patent 5,946,986 is now submitted to be moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

In the Office Action, at page 4, claims 5, 17, and 30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner stated that said claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Also, the Examiner noted in the Office Action Summary that claims 5-11, 17-21, 23, 30-34 and 35 were objected to.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 5, and claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Hence, amended claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom (claims 2-4 and 6-11) are submitted to be in allowable form.

As noted above, claim 12 has been amended to include the features of claim 17, and claim 17 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Hence, amended claim 12 and the claims dependent therefrom (claims 13-16 and 18-23) are submitted to be in allowable form.

As noted above, claim 24 has been amended to include the features of claim 30, and claim 30 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Hence, amended claim 24 and the claims dependent therefrom (claims 25-29 and 31-36) are submitted to be in allowable form.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 5, 2005

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